Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the main criteria for exclusion of bulk drugs from price control adopted by the Kelkar Committee is minimum 5 producers of a particular bulk drug;

(b) When Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2 and Folic Acid enjoy monopoly and there is only one producer in the country as indicated by his Ministry then on what basis his Miinstry has exempted these drugs from price control; and

(c) whether it is a fact that such action has been taken to allow the company to exploit the monopoly positoin and overcharge the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Kelkar Committee had recommended that all Vitamins, only when used in combinations in formulations should come under category II of price control. Keeping this recommendations in view, all Vitamins as bulk drugs have been exempted from price control.

Decontrolling the Prices of Heptatitis-B-Vaccine

1986. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Heptatitis-B-Vaccine, Quinidine Sulphate, Ergmetring and Primaguin were recommended for price control by the Kelkar Committee;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the turn-over of each of these drugs is less than even 30 lakhs; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to exclude these drugs from price control?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VANGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kelkar Committee had applied the exclusion criteria in identifying category II drugs and wherever deviations were made in applying these criteria reasons therefor were given by the Committee.

(c) No, Sir.

Price Control on Tetanus Antitoxin

1987. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Tetanus Antitoxin and Anti Snake Venom Serum were under price control under DPCO, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government were allowing increases in prices based on factual data under DPCO, 1979;

(c) when did the producer of these vaccines apply for price increase under DPCO, 1979; and

(d) what was the price increase applied for and what price was granted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After conducting a fresh cost-cum-technical study, the BICP recommended revised prices for these bulk drugs in July, 1987. The new DPCO, 1987 was notified on 26-8-1987 while the price recommended by the BICP was still under consideration. As the bulk drugs in question are not price controlled under DPCO 1987, the question of notifying the price does not now arise.